

“The 'Greening Goldsworth Road' development is to create 965 homes and comprise 5 residential tower blocks with 9 storeys, 21 storeys, twice 29 storeys and 41 storeys. (For comparison, the big Victoria Place towers being currently built in Woking town centre are ca 31 storeys high.)”

I would like to raise my concerns about the above project. The term "demolishing" sends shivers down my spine. Why demolish something perfectly functional? What about the pollution it generates? Why not refurbish / restore instead? This small patch of land in the central location surrounded by roads and railway line doesn't lend itself to residential dwellings. I believe the best use for it would be to have a car park there (preferably amidst the trees and vegetation), so access to the town centre and train station could be improved, which would also provide a boost to the local economy. It doesn't need experts to see how inadequate a location for massive residential blocks it is. Would you like to live there? I certainly wouldn't, even though my current accommodation leaves a lot to be desired. I would like to see some improvements made to the current housing stock and greener, more spacious homes constructed for the local residents rather than newcomers to the area. Increasing population density in the town centre would put excessive pressure on the town's infrastructure. The current pandemic has highlighted the downside of high density living with limited personal space. It is more likely to breed anti-social behaviour and create alienation.

I wish this preposterous project could be scrapped, particularly that it comes high on the heels of another controversial Victoria Square development currently underway that has caused us so much inconvenience (e.g.: noise, dust, access restrictions, road blockages etc.) for a few years now, mainly to residents to the west side of the town centre. I understand it contains a lot of studios, so constructing more may lead to the oversupply of those tiny dwellings with little infrastructure to support them.

We need some breathing space and a chance to enjoy the construction and pollution free environment. Another project to last for nearly a decade sounds quite unsustainable! In whose interests is it to create a concrete jungle in Woking? It just doesn't go with the character of the town. I can't help recalling the memory of Grenfell Tower disaster, which highlighted the risks connected with those tower blocks and the extra costs needed to keep them safe. Seems to me that money could be better spent on modernisation of the existing housing stock and construction of ecologically sound homes, like the ones featured in this podcast: www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b09v3fdr. The "greening" word in the project's description appears to be just a "gimmick" with no substance.

I am appalled to see the infrastructure being demolished to make room for residential dwellings in the most undesirable of locations. Instead it should be preserved and improved on. The roads and their drainage system seem to be in need of investment. The History Centre has been noise polluting its neighbourhood with its air conditioning system at night time for donkey's years, making the area unpleasant to live in. Some have moved away, but some of us cannot afford to. We've been on the receiving end of this noise nuisance and nothing has been done to alleviate its impact despite my constant complaints to the Environmental Dept. Maybe the residential area is not the best location for a building generating noise at night time?

I do appreciate the need for constructing more homes for the young. But do they have to be constructed in the already developed areas by demolishing the existing structures? Wouldn't it be possible to develop the under-developed sites instead by providing the new infrastructure along with the residential dwellings? Preferably that could be done bearing in mind preservation of the natural environment by working around it rather than destroy it?

We hoped the lessons could be drawn from the pandemics and the post-covid world would be more environmentally friendly and pollution free.